

## KARO-ECHO Board Meeting

4/8/20  
via Zoom

### **Present:**

Annette, KJ6SWK  
Natalie, KM6UCF  
Howdy, KE6BEE  
Larry Vanselow, KK6GIO  
Rob McNicholas, K6RJM  
Hal, KK6NDF (joined at 6:30)

**Topic for April membership meeting:** Using short-range radio nets in EC and KEN to connect CERT and upcoming evacuation zones.

Rob suggested reaching out to CERT coordinators to discuss **FRS/GMRS** neighborhood usage. He envisions starting a weekly neighborhood FRS/GMRS net for all CERT areas that would report in to KARO-ECHO hams. Howdy proposed a radio “hub” where neighbors could connect, and then have the hubs talk to each other. There’s a new GMRS repeater in Oakland and in Richmond. KEN1 has tried this. There’s competency, but little activity from CERT coordination at the area level. At the individual block level, there’s functionality, but AC activity has diminished.

**Outreach:** Annette will send out informational letters to new licensees, as several have come through in recent months.

Howdy stated that the **newsletter** will focus on the latest SET and Net Control training; he will also suggest that people monitor the frequency at 146.415.

**CERT area coordinators:** Rob mentioned that in the recent survey, a number of people expressed interest in becoming CERT coordinators in the recent survey, but that there has been no followup. Rob will ask Grupalo and Hilliard whether they can follow up; if not, he’ll ask whether we can do it. Rob also mentioned that there should be more than one Area Coordinator per area to increase the odds that an AC will be available in an emergency.

CERT training is being cut due to strained El Cerrito finances.

Hal thinks the radio could be a way to nucleate CERT activity, especially where there is no Area Coordinator, with the idea of building activity through the use of radio. It’s generally easier to connect people at the block level. The proposed “FRS Net” for blocks to communicate is a good way to do this.

Separate from CERT areas, there are evacuation zones, which are mapped differently. It is unclear what this means for the future of CERT areas, and Hal would like to discuss this

with Hilliard.

Howdy mentioned that we may not need to worry so much about CERT or zone areas, and that we could simply focus on hyper-local radio hubs. Once we establish the hubs, people could be encouraged to connect to people in other hubs so that they know where else they can connect.

Hal stated that there are three systems overlaying the area, and that the radio net, with its focus on the block level, is a cohering system that can be used as a framework that can work with CERT and Zone Havens.

- CERT areas
- Evacuation Zones
- Radio net, which overlays the entire area

Meeting adjourned.